(c) No, Sir. Conditional Access System (CAS) was rolled out in notified areas of 3 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata w.e.f. 31.12.2006 and in Chennai since 2003 with the objective to provide the consumer a choice to select and pay only for those pay channels which he desires to watch. As on 31st December 2007, the scheme has succeeded in enrolling a total number of 5,09,469 subscribers who have reportedly opted for Set Top Box (STB) in CAS notified areas of three metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Pashto Service on AIR

*24. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that The All India Radio (AIR) had Pashto service, which has popular in Pashto speaking areas;

(b) if so, why was it discontinued and since when;

(c) is there any proposal to restart it; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR has a Pashto Service, which was introduced in the year 1939. The Service has not been discontinued.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Digitization of EPF Records

*25. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees contributing to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Account as on 31st March of 2001, year-wise till 2007 and the volume of Provident Fund held in the corresponding periods;

(b) whether Government had taken up programme for digitization of the records of Employees Provident Fund;

(c) if so, the details of the programme indicating its origin, cost estimation and potential benefits which complete digitization would have accrued;

(d) the details of the progress made, so far in implementing the same, indicating reasons for the delay, if any; and

(e) the time-frame presently fixed, if any, for, complete digitization of the PF records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details are given in the Statement (*see* below)

(b) to (e) The Employees' Provident Fund launched a project called 'Re-Inventing EPF India' in order to provide world-class service to its stakeholders by revamping the accounting procedure, business process, etc., which would enable the claims to be settled within 2-3 days, improved compliance and to provide service on 'Any-time Any-where' basis.

The consultants appointed for this work delivered their report on 'Business Process Re-engineering', System Design Document, 'Software Requirement Specifications', etc. The application software was also delivered. On exhaustive user testing and field testing, the application was found to be needing considerable improvements. To set right the deficiencies, the consultants have asked for changes in contract and financial compensation. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund have considered the above and have given directions to explore alternate options and also to take legal opinion as regards the present situation.

The reasons for delay are the delayed submission of some milestones by the consultants as well as time taken for various approvals. Siemens Information Systems Limited (SISL) were engaged as consultants for the Project for an amount of Rs. 6, 67, 47, 000/-. Apart from this, no other cost estimates were finalised.

The time frame would be fixed as soon as the appropriate option is approved by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

Statement

Details of members and investment of the Employees Provident fund for the period 2001-2007

(Un-exempted Establishments)

Year ending	No. of members (In lakhs)	Investment at face value (Rs. in Crores)
31st March 2001	220.40	54404.66
31st March 2002	235.21	59988.44
31st March 2003	357.47	65413.73
31st March 2004	363.75	71838.60
31st March 2005	372.13	79764.48
31st March 2006	389.88	90438.36
31st March 2007	404.03	103837.36

Implementation of NREG Scheme in the whole country

†*26. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) from April, 2008 in the whole country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi